

Case Study

THE CHALLENGE

EASING BACK-BREAKING CHRISTMAS TREE FEEDING

THE PROBLEM

A commercial grower of Christmas trees approached the Professional Sprayers People for a solution to feeding the 6000 Nordman Fir, Fraser Fir and Norway Spruce trees on his farm.

The grower had to feed the trees by hand which was causing him considerable back pain. It was also very time consuming and he was concerned he was either under feeding or overfeeding plants, and thus wasting expensive fertiliser, because the dosage was not accurate.

The trees were grown in 10L pots which were then planted in the ground. They were fed in April, particularly those that were not thriving, and again in October. Feeding was also done on an ad-hoc basis depending on what size the trees needed to be.



THE CLIENT



Established in 1994, Snowbird Christmas Specialists supply nursery stock and offer a wide selection of choose and cut trees from its four and a half acre site as well as a range of potentially difficult to find growers supplies and essentials specifically for UK Christmas tree growers.

THE SOLUTION

PSP recommended the Backpack Granule Applicator. This product is designed to deliver precise doses of powdered or granulated agrichemicals and fertilisers.

The machine, which comes with both spot and wide distribution applicators, can be calibrated to deliver between 8-250 grams of product per squeeze of the trigger in a consistent manner. Further to this, the long but flexible lance system allows the product to be delivered exactly where needed. By delivering the correct amount of product in the right target area the knapsack granule applicator helps reduce wastage and cost.

The Backpack Granule Applicator is suitable for use in areas where large scale, vehicle-mounted granule applicators are not viable such as tree farms, orchards, vineyards and polytunnels or in any situation where precise applications of products are required.

The applicator's versatility lies in its ability to deliver both granulated product and powdered product. The applicator can also be set in continual flow mode whereby the inlet and outlet to the dosing chamber are open allowing for a continual stream of product to be delivered. The rate of flow can be varied by partially closing the outlet valve. This means the applicator can be utilised to lay down lines of pesticide/bait granules or powders.



BENEFITS OF THE GRANULE APPLICATOR

- Tough rugged design for professional use
- Calibration from 8-250g per trigger squeeze
- Flows from 3.6-12.2 Kg per minute in continual mode
- Tank filler has strainer to break up granules that have become impacted prior to filling
- Comfortable knapsack design with padded straps and joystick command
- Flexible lance allows for precision applications

RESULTS

The grower was very impressed with the Backpack Granule Applicator's functionality and design which meant he could work in comfort. The improvement in his back pain meant a reduction in osteopathy bills, saved him time and reduced his outlay on fertiliser.

The Backpack Granule Applicator can be used on a wide range of crops, flowers, vegetable and fruit plants and trees.